



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
SUMEX COMPUTER PROJECT

Department of Genetics  
Professor J. Lederberg  
Principal Investigator

Dr. N.S. Sridharan  
c/o Professor Ivar Ugi  
Laboratorium für Organische Chemie  
Technische Universität  
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Dear Sri,

We have recently received the NIH budget for the DENDRAL renewal. We were told a few weeks ago that the money was coming, but there was, until now, no indication of how the BRB office took the recommendations of the study section into account in the final budget.

The recommendations were not entirely to our liking, especially after all the hassle we had gone through to get an acceptable proposal. They were, briefly, to upgrade the mass spectrometry resource, downplay broad extensions to the programs (Cl3 NMR, for example) and focus more on relations with the SUMEX community.

NIH reconfigured the budget to include a substantial amount of new hardware for the mass spectrometer, mostly at the expense of personnel. They did not, of course, increase the total amount of the award to cover the increased hardware costs. Therefore, we had to make a very hard decision on how to allocate the personnel dollars. Our first consideration is to the people currently depending on us for support and most directly related to these new objectives. Regretfully, that decision forced us to cut out of the NIH budget the position we were holding open for you.

We intend to write our ARPA Contract renewal proposal to include enough money for you, assuming you wish to return. If that strategy works, we would have an opening for you in July, 1975. ARPA is already demanding a completely new set of ideas from us (i.e., no more meta-DENDRAL or protein work), and we are sweating out what would be the best strategy, if any, to attract renewal funding. If we get any better news, we will certainly contact you further.

Your contributions and general expertise have been a big plus for the project. If it is your own wish to return, we will make a big effort again to make it possible. This letter, of course, is joined by Ed and Bruce.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg

✓ CC: Bruce Budiman

SRIDHARAN, N.S.